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Swaffham Urban District Council.

COPY REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1938.

The Hollies.

Swaffham, Norfolk.

June 1939.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Swaffham Urban District Council.

Gentlemen.

Once again I have the honour to place before you my Annual Report.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I have nothing to import to include under this heading, the health of the town has remained constantly good throughout the year.
Building has gone ahead on the new housing estate and I have heard nothing but good from the tenants therein as to their new homes.

POPULATION.

The R.G's figures for this which I received last week are given as 2641 which is an increase on last year's estimate of 2632

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Deaths for the year number 36 as compared to last years 40. This shews a comparative average per thousand to the whole Country as 13.7 is to 11.6. Births were notified as under ,24 male , 12 female with two still births , one of each sex.
As compared with the Country's average as a whole of 15.1 per thousand, our own is 14.3. This is a slight increase on last years figures but is particularly noticeable of the sex compar -ison , which is double that of the female.

ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Disease of the heart carried off the biggest proportion losses from this being 8. 6 deaths occurred from cerebral haemorrhage and the like which is usually a disease of senility while 3 were defined as senile decay, 2 from diabetes , and the remainder from other defined disease

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Here we establish I think a record there being only 1 case of infectious disease - that of scarlet fever - being notified except for the notification of two cases of perperal pyrexia which though notifiable are not exactly the possible cause of any epidemic spread.

HOUSING

Your Surveyor's report gives you these in details, so that I will not burden you with repetition.

DAIRIES COWHOUSES &C

These have from time to time been duly inspected by your Sanitary Officer without complaint. I have with his help examined and reported on various carcases in the slaughterhouses condemning as requisite.

WATER

The supply has continued good throughout the year. I have had one or two further complaints as to sediment from time to time but these have only been transitory and have not been renewed.

I would once again stress the importance of some form of softener being put in at the main. I am sure the Company would find this would be a saving in the use of the water while from a health point of view it would be an enormous improvement - the Swaffham water being some of the hardest in England.

LIGHTING &C.

I again reiterate that in comparison to corporation owned Companies , the charges for electric light are very high indeed. Norwich I think supplies as far as Elmham and Scarning at a fractional cost to what we pay. I say this without being absolut-ly certain of actual figures but I believe the comparison is great.

TOWN'S EFFORTS INTHE CRISIS.

During and immediately after the September crisis consid--erable preparatory work was done to get " going" on necessary work. The V.A.D. under the command of Mrs Sooby quickly got together and have been under instruction in A.R.P. work in emergency. A room (the old chapel in Lynn Street) was prepared as a station under the command of Major Carpenter . There was throughout the Country considerable confusion as to this work, but in Swaffham we were I think as efficient as most places , and since then great and continued progress has been maintained.

I am still of opinion that the importance of this work should be continually brought before the public in the form of some public lecture or meeting especially what should be done by the public in the event of enemy raid.

The local Territorials are at fully strength , and I understand that a " second line" is well on its way to completion on a War time basis.

This , Gentlemen finishes my report for last year and may I again thank you for my reappointment with the hope that Hitler and Mussolini permitting I may be permitted to carry on as your Medical Officer in the future.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant.

(Signed) R. O. TOWNEND.

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